(b) whether any drug traffickers were arrested during this seizure and if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this seizure is the largest in the world of the year as confirmed by INTERPOL; and

(d) whether foreign links of the drug traffickers were found during this raid and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. 354.150 Kgs. of heroin was seized in June, 1992.

(b) Two persons were arrested. Their names are Ishrak Khan and Noor Mohmed Jehangir Pathan.

(c) As per the available Interpol reports, this appears to be largest seizure of 1992.

(d) Yes, Sir. Both drug traffickers have links with their counterparts in the Golden Cresent area.

Diversion of Money raised through PSU Bonds by handful of brokers

1230. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi of the 5th June, 1992 under the caption "Brokers made good use of PSU's money" wherein it has been stated that over Rs. 10,000 crores of Public Sector Undertakings, money raised through bonds or debentures was diverted to help half a dozen brokers;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the officials responsible for this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The irregularities referred to are being examined by the Janakiraman Committee and the Government is taking corrective and punitive action on all specific cases of improper use of funds emerging from this examination. These matters are also being investigated by the CBI.

Loss due to misuse of power by Income-Tax Officer

1231. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' (NOIDA) of 23rd May, 1992 regarding misuse of power by an Income Tax Officer causing loss of 26 lacs of rupees to Government; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to recover the money and to punish such type of authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case relating to fraudulent Income Tax refund has been referred to the Police for investigation. 19 criminal cases have been registered and 76 persons were arrested by the Police. Those arrested include two employees of Income Tax Department (including the ITO concerned). These two employees have also been placed under suspension.

An amount of Rs. 1.54 lacs approx. has been recoverd from some of the persons involved in the fraudulent encashment of the refund vouchers.